# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON DIVISION

Yakov Bratslavskiy, Plaintiff	)
v.	Case <b>6 5</b> 1-1
Michael Chertoff,	)
Secretary of the United States	) Al
Department of Homeland Security,	) Al
1	Ś
Eduardo Aguirre, Jr., Director,	) LC
United States Citizenship and	ý
Immigration Services	) M
and	) B
Denis Riordan, District Director,	)
United States Citizenship and	)
Immigration Services	)
Defendants	

Case **6 5**1 104**1**741 5 9 6 MIW

AMOUNT \$ 250.00

SUMMONS ISSUED 3

LOCAL RULE 4.1

WAIVER FORM

MCF ISSUED

BY DPTY. CLK. 17.7

DATE 7139 2005

MAGISTRATE JUDGE

# PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT FOR WRIT IN THE NATURE OF MANDAMUS

# AND PETITION FOR HEARING ON NATURALIZATION APPLICATION UNDER 8 USC §1447(b)

COMES NOW Yakov Bratslavskiy, Plaintiff in the above-styled and numbered cause, and for cause of action would show unto the Court the following:

1. This action is brought against the Defendants to compel action on an application for naturalization properly filed by the Plaintiffs. In the alternative, Plaintiff moves this Honorable Court to adjudicate the Application, based on the authority grated to this Court by 8 U.S.C. § 1447(b). The application was filed and emains within the jurisdiction of the Defendants, who have improperly withheld action on said application to Plaintiff's detriment.

### **PARTIES**

2. Plaintiff YAKOV BRATSLAVSKIY is a native of Russia and a permanent resident of the United States since August 1992. Upon fulfilling the 5-year physical presence requirement, as mandated by 8 USC §1427, Mr. Bratslavskiy applied for naturalization in March 2002.

- Defendant Michael Chertoff is Secretary of the United States Department of Homeland 3. Security (hereinafter "DHS"), and this action is brought against him in his official capacity. He is generally charged with enforcement of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and is further authorized to delegate such powers and authority to subordinate employees of the DHS. 8 USC §1103(a). The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (hereinafter "CIS") is an agency within the DHS to whom the Secretary's authority has in part been delegated, and is subject to the Secretary's supervision.
- Defendant Director Eduardo Aguirre, Jr. is an official of the CIS generally charged with 4 supervisory authority over all operations of the CIS within the CIS with certain specific exceptions not relevant here. 8 CFR §103.1(g)(2)(ii)(B). As will be shown, Defendant Director is the official with whom Plaintiffs' application for lawful permanent resident status was properly filed.
- 5. Defendant District Director Denis Riordan is an official of the CIS generally charged with supervisory authority over all operations of the CIS within his District with certain specific exceptions not relevant here. 8 CFR §103.1(g)(2)(ii)(B). As will be shown, Defendant District Director is the official with whom Plaintiffs' application for naturalization is currently pending.

#### JURISDICTION

6. Jurisdiction in this case is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§1331 and 1361, 5 U.S.C. §701 et seq., and 28 U.S.C. §2201 et seq., as well as 8 U.S.C. § 1447(b), which states, in pertinent part:

> If there is a failure to make a determination under [INA] §335 [8 U.S.C. §1446] before the end of the 120-day period after the date on which the examination is conducted under such section, the applicant may apply to the United States District Court for the District in which the applicant resides for a hearing on the matter. Such court has jurisdiction over the matter and may either determine the matter or remand the matter, with appropriate instructions to the Service to determine the matter.

Relief is requested pursuant to said statutes.

## **VENUE**

7. Venue is proper in this court, pursuant to 28 USC §1391(e), in that this is an action against officers and agencies of the United States in their official capacities, brought in the District where a Defendant resides and where a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiff's claim occurred. More specifically, Plaintiff's application for naturalization was properly filed and, to Plaintiff's knowledge, remains pending with the Boston CIS District Director.

## **EXHAUSTION OF REMEDIES**

8. Plaintiff has exhausted his administrative remedies. Plaintiff has, through his attorney, made numerous inquiries concerning the status of the application to no avail. An example of such inquiries in the form of a letter to an adjudications supervisor at the Boston CIS District Office, accompanies this Petition as Exhibit A.

## **CAUSE OF ACTION**

- 9. All legal prerequisites having been satisfied, Plaintiff applied for naturalization with the CIS Vermont Service Center in September, 2003. Upon the initial processing of the case, and the completion of the required fingerprint check, the case was forwarded to the Boston CIS District Office for the interview
- 11. Plaintiff was interviewed for his naturalization application on October 7, 2002, by CIS Officer Toni Swanson. At that time, Officer Swanson stated that even though Plaintiff had passed the tests of English and U.S. history and government, a decision could not be made about his application, without providing any further explanation. A copy of the Naturalization Interview Results sheet accompanies this Petition as **Exhibit B**. After repeated inquiries by Plaintiff and subsequently, by Plaintiff's counsel, CIS finally responded stating that "file is pending security checks".
- 12. In February 2005, Plaintiff received a second fingerprint notification from CIS. He promptly appeared for the scheduled fingerprint appointment and had his fingerprints taken again. Based on the information from the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the FBI received Plaintiff's fingerprints on February 23, 2005, and forwarded them to the Boston CIS District electronically on the same day.
- 13. Defendants have sufficient information to determine Plaintiff's eligibility pursuant to applicable requirements. To date, said application has not been adjudicated.
- Defendants' refusal to act in this case is, as a matter of law, arbitrary and not in accordance with the law. Defendants willfully, and unreasonably, have delayed in and have refused to, adjudicate Plaintiff's applications for over three years, thereby depriving him of the right to a decision on his status and the peace of mind to which Plaintiff is entitled.

- 14. Plaintiff has been greatly damaged by the failure of Defendants to act in accord with their duties under the law.
  - (a) Plaintiff has further been damaged in that he continues to invest his time and money to make repeated case inquires.
  - (b) Plaintiff has further been damaged by being deprived of the status of United States Citizen during the interminable pendency of his application.
- 15. The Defendants, in violation of the Administrative Procedures Act, 5 USC §701 et seq., is unlawfully withholding or unreasonably delaying action on Plaintiff's application and have failed to carry out the adjudicative functions delegated to them by law with regard to Plaintiff's case.
- 16. Plaintiff has made numerous status inquiries in an attempt to secure adjudication of his application, all to no avail. Accordingly, Plaintiff has been forced to retain the services of an attorney to pursue the instant action.

## **PRAYER**

- 17. WHEREFORE, in view of the arguments and authority noted herein, Plaintiff respectfully prays that the Defendants be cited to appear herein and that, upon due consideration, the Court enter an order:
  - (a) Adjudicating Plaintiff's Application for Naturalization pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1447(b), or, in the alternative,
    - requiring Defendants to adjudicate Plaintiffs application for naturalization pursuant to the Writ of Mandamus;
  - (b) awarding Plaintiff reasonable attorney's fees; and
  - (c) granting such other relief at law and in equity as justice may require.

Respectfully submitted,

Yakov Bratslavskiy, by his Attorney

Boris B. Maiden, Esq.

Law Office of Boris B. Maiden

251 Harvard Street, Suite 1 Brookline, MA 02446

617 739 6977

617 739 6774

# LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

# Exhibit Description

- A Plaintiff's Counsel's Letter to the Boston CIS District Office dated March 2, 2004
- B CIS Naturalization Interview Results;
- C CIS Application Receipt Notice, showing the Naturalization Application's receipt Date OF March 12, 2002.

# BORIS B. MAIDEN ATTORNEY AT LAW

251 HARVARD STREET SUITE 1 BROOKLINE MA 02446

BORIS B. MAIDEN\* KEVIN P. KEEFE

GREGORY ROMANOVSKY \* \*

OF COUNSEL

KENNETH J. GOLDBERG

\*Also admitted in NY

\*\*Member of American Immigration Lawyers Association

March 2, 2004

PHONE: (617) 739-6977

FAX: (617) 739-6774

Adjudications Supervisor Attorney Drop Box Immigration and Naturalization Service Government Center JFK Federal Building Boston, MA 02203

#### HAND DELIVERY

# RE: N-400 Application of Yakov Bratslavskiy (A # 071-104-774)

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please be advised that this office represents the above-referenced individual in connection with his application for naturalization. My G-28 Form is enclosed for your records. Mr. Bratslavskiy was interviewed on 10/07/2002 (1.5 years ago!). He passed the tests of English and U.S. history and government, but there was no decision made on his case at the time.

Officer Toni Swanson, who conducted the interview, did not inform my client of the reason(s) why the case was not adjudicated at the time of the interview (I assume it was the usual "security check" delay). As a result, Mr. Bratslavskiy left the interview without any knowledge of what to expect. The only thing he was told was that "a decision cannot yet be made" about his application. He has been patiently waiting for 1.5 years, periodically spending hours in the information room line – just to be told that his case is still pending.

Please adjudicate the application as soon as possible. It is unfair to require my client to wait for so long to get the benefits he is eligible for. Thank you very much for your time and your prompt attention to this matter!

ruty yours,

Gregory Romanovsky

U.S. Department of Justice

		<b>.</b> .		~ .
<b>Immigration</b>	and N	tahma	iization	Service

Na. alization Interview Results

	A#: 07/10/77/
On	107 02 you were interviewed by INS Officer TONI SWANSON
2	You passed the tests of English and U.S. history and government. You passed the test of U.S. history and government and the English language requirement was waived.
	The Service has accepted your request for a Disability Exception. You are exempted from the requirement to demonstrate English language ability and/or a knowledge of U.S. history and government.
0	You will be given another opportunity to be tested on your ability tospeak /read / write English.
0	You will be given another opportunity to be tested on your knowledge of U.S. history and government.
	Please follow the instructions on the Form N-14.  INS will send you a written decision about your application.
0	You did not pass the second and final test of your English ability / knowledge of U.S. history and government. You will not be rescheduled for another interview for this N-400. INS will send you a written decision about your application.
	Congratulations! Your application has been recommended for approval. At this ne, it appears that you have established your eligibility for naturalization. If final approval is granted, u will be notified when and where to report for the Oath Ceremony.
B).	A decision cannot yet be made about your application.

# It is very important that you:

- ✓ Notify INS if you change your address.
- ✓ Come to any scheduled interview.
- ✓ Submit all requested documents.
- ✓ Send any questions about this application in writing to the officer named above. Include your full name, A-number, and a copy of this paper.
- ✓ Go to any oath ceremony that you are scheduled to attend.
- ✓ Notify INS as soon as possible in writing if you cannot come to any scheduled interview or oath ceremony. Include a copy of this paper and a copy of the scheduling notice.

NOTICE DATE April 01, 2002 Receipt CASE TYPE INS A# > N400 Application For Naturalization A 071 104 774 APPLICATION NUMBER RECEIVED DATE PRIORITY DATE PAGE March 12, 2002 March 12, 2002 ESC\*000821183 1 of 1

APPLICANT NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

YAKOV BRATSLAVSKIY

11 HAGEN RD

\$310.00 Single Application Fee:

NEWTON MA 02459

Total Amount Received: Total Balance Due:

\$310.00 \$0.00

Herridalahalalahala

The above application has been received by our office and is in process. Our records indicate your personal information is as follows:

Date of Birth:

June 04, 1954

Address Where You Live: 11 HAGEN RD

NEWTON MA 02459

Please verify your personal information listed above and immediately notify our office at the address or phone number listed below if there are any changes.

You will be notified of the date and place of your interview when you have been scheduled by the local INS office. You should expect to be notified within 365 days of this notice.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this notice or the status of your ease, please contact our office at the below address or customer service number. You will be notified separately about any other cases you may have fited.

If you have other questions about possible immigration benefits and services, filing information, or INS forms, please call the INS National Customer Service Center (NCSC) at 1-800-375-5283. If you are hearing impaired, please call the NCSC TDD at 1-800-767-1833.

If you have access to the Internet, you can also visit INS at www.ins.usdoj.gov. Here you can find valuable information about forms and filing instructions. and about general immigration services and benefits. At present, this site does not provide case status information.

INS Office Address:

US IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE 75 LOWER WELDEN STREET ST ALBANS VT 05479INS Customer Service Number:

(802) 527-4913

APPLICANT COPY



ESC\$000800987

Form I-797C (Rev. 09/07/93) N

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Boris B. Maiden, attorney for the plaintiff, Yakov Bratslavskiy, hereby certify that on this 29<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2005, I have caused a true and accurate copy of the foregoing **Copmlaint**, to be mailed, postage pre-paid to the following defendants:

Alberto Gonzales Attorney General U.S. Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Washinton, DC 20530-0001

Office of the General Counsel U.S. Department of Homeland Security Washington, DC 20528

Robert Divine U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services 20 Massachusetts Ave. NW Washington, DC 20529

Denis Riordan
District Director
U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services
JFK Federal Building
15 Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203

Boris Maiden

SJS 44 (Rev. 11/04)

# CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained berein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS	Michael Chostat	f DHS		
	atslavskiy		DEFENDANTS Michael Chertoff, DHS Eduardo Aguirre Jr., USCIS Denis Riordan, USCIS				
(b) County of Residence	of First Listed Plaintiff		County of Residence of First Listed Defendant				
(E)	(CEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES O	•		
			NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.				
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name,	Address, and Telephone Number) F BORIS B. MAIDEN 6	17-739-6977	Attorneys (If Known)				
251 Harrand	1 St. Ste. 1, Brookline, MA	02446	05	1150	I G MI W		
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☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	☐ 315 Airplane Product Med. Mal Liability ☐ 365 Personal		625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881	28 USC 157	430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce		
☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	320 Assault, Libel & Product I.	iability 🔲 (	630 Liquor Laws	PROPERTY RIGHTS	☐ 460 Deportation		
& Enforcement of Judgment  151 Medicare Act	Slander 368 Asbestos 330 Federal Employers' Injury Pro		640 R.R. & Truck 650 Airline Regs.	820 Copyrights 830 Patent	470 Racketeer Influenced and     Corrupt Organizations		
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Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)	☐ 340 Marine PERSONAL P. ☐ 345 Marine Product ☐ 370 Other Fr		Safety/Health 690 Other		490 Cable/Sat TV 810 Selective Service		
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☐ 190 Other Contract	Product Liability 🗍 385 Property	Damage 🗍	720 Labor/Mgmt, Relations	☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	12 USC 3410		
☐ 195 Contract Product Liability ☐ 196 Franchise	☐ 360 Other Personal Product L Injury	iability	730 Labor/Mgmt.Reporting & Disclosure Act	☐ 864 SSID Title XVI ☐ 865 RSI (405(g))	890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts		
REAL PROPERTY  210 Land Condemnation	CIVIL RIGHTS PRISONER PI  441 Voting 510 Motions		740 Railway Labor Act	FEDERAL TAX SUITS	892 Economic Stabilization Act		
220 Foreclosure	☐ 441 Voting ☐ 510 Motions ☐ 442 Employment ☐ Sentence		790 Other Labor Litigation 791 Empl. Ret. Inc.	☐ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)	893 Environmental Matters 894 Energy Allocation Act		
230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land	230 Rent Lease & Ejectment		Security Act	26 USC 7609	895 Freedom of Information		
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	Brief description of cause: Defe	ndants u	in Reasonably di	elay adjudication	9.77.70)		
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# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

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